

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

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MAY 20, 2003

FROM: ROBERTA YORK, DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION: Approve grant application in the amount of \$2,600,000 and authorize the submission of approved application to the California Children and Families Commission for a grant for School Readiness for Fiscal Years 2003-2007.

BACKGROUND: The California Children and Families Commission is offering the San Bernardino County Children and Families Commission (now titled First 5 San Bernardino) the opportunity to apply for School Readiness Funds. These funds are to be used to coordinate and implement a system of school-linked services based on research outcomes and promising approaches to school readiness.

The School Readiness grants will assist local schools and agencies fill the gaps between services that are currently available and additional services that are needed to help every child succeed. The areas of focus for school readiness will be: positive approaches to learning, cognitive ability, language, and social and emotional growth.

Preschool Services Department (PSD), in conjunction with First 5 San Bernardino, is currently working on a project to bring this school readiness initiative to fourteen (14) High Desert elementary schools, with PSD acting as the lead agency. The plan, facilitated by PSD, involves utilizing staff at school districts in communities that qualify under the school readiness initiative: Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Lucerne Valley, Silver Valley, Victorville, Snowline, and Needles. Each participating school will offer school readiness services in conjunction with parenting education, expand current outreach efforts to include families with children 05 years, build relationships with families with a variety of transition activities, and connect with every family (in their attendance area) through the distribution of school readiness materials.

If approved, this award will be for the period of August 1, 2003 through July 30, 2007 with a total grant amount of approximately \$2,600,000. The grant award for FY03/04 is expected to be \$650,000 and funding is expected to continue at similar levels through July 30, 2007. This funding will be used to create five staff positions to coordinate the program for the entire High Desert. The funds will also be used to purchase supplies, books, teacher stipends, childcare, parent incentives, and to fund the expansion of several other programs that promote school readiness.

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REVIEW BY OTHERS: This action was approved by the PSD Policy Council on April 21, 2003 and by the PSD Shared Governance Board on April 28, 2003. This item was reviewed by County Counsel (Julie Surber, Deputy County Counsel) on May 8, 2003; the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst) on May 7, 2003; and by HSS Finance (Kristin Letterman, Administrative Manager) on May 8, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This application requests funding of \$650,000 for FY03/04 and total funding of \$2,600,000 for the grant period of August 1, 2003 through July 30, 2007. The Department will return to the Board of Supervisors to accept and budget any funds awarded and seek approval of any additional positions resulting from the application. Approval of this application will result in no additional cost to the County. All costs associated with this award will be 100% reimbursed by the California Children and Families Commission.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends this action, as the revenue received under the Head Start Program is 100% reimbursed by the California Children and Families Commission.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Roberta York, Director, Preschool Services Department (909) 387-2355